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EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/30/09
HB 280

January 30th, 2009

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rita Charles, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: HB 280, Community Health Center Support Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, my name is Rita Charles and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana – a non-profit non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. We strongly believe that the current climate of the health care system necessitates the expansion of Community Health Centers.

These centers are often the only means of primary or preventative care for low-income or uninsured Montanans, especially Montanans between the ages of 50 and 65. Many of us believe that all Montanans should have access to affordable health care – and when insurance is either too expensive or unavailable, the Community Health Centers become a safety net on which Montanans absolutely depend.

Whether it's prenatal care, chronic-disease relief, or just a flu-shot, these Community Health Centers are critical our state's over all health care infrastructure. AARP Montana strongly urges a do pass vote on House Bill 280, to help expand Community Health Centers to more areas in the state.